



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 21-2799, **Agenda Item #:** 54.

9/30/2021

### Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to accept and appropriate \$1,432,565 in grant funds from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and to add 8.0 new full-time equivalent grant positions, for the Chronic Disease Community Health Worker Train, Deploy, Engage Grant.

### Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

### Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$1,432,565 is available from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The grant year period is August 31, 2021 through August 30, 2022. A City funding match is not required. A fiscal note is attached.

### For More Information:

Adrienne Sturup, Acting Director, 512-972-5010; Cassandra DeLeon, Chief Administrative Officer Disease Prevention Health Promotion Division, 512-972-6760; Ruth Dalrymple, Interim Government Affairs Liaison, Office of the Director, 512-972-5124.

### Additional Backup Information:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is allocating federal funds to Austin Public Health from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (also known as CARES) Act of 2020 for DP21-2109 - Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities. The City has been awarded \$1,432,565 for the Year 1 budget of a three-year Chronic Disease Community Health Worker Train, Deploy, Engage Grant Program. Funding for Years 2 and 3 is dependent on the availability of funding in the federal budget to continue the program. This project will train, deploy, and engage Community Health Workers (CHWs) in the COVID-19 response to address underlying social factors and chronic disease health factors negatively impacting communities of color in Travis County. The catchment area of this project is the entirety of Travis County, and priority populations are Hispanic/Latinx and Black/African American communities located predominately in the 15 Eastern zip codes of Travis County known as the "Eastern Crescent." These zip codes face significantly higher poverty rates than Travis County overall.

This project will enhance training, deployment, and engagement of CHW's within Austin/Travis County to support COVID-19 prevention and vaccine promotion efforts, increase access and linkage to social and health services, and improve health through resilience/chronic disease prevention interventions. This project will significantly expand CHW programs in Austin and Travis County by funding CHW positions in community, clinical, and public and affordable housing sectors. CHW's will conduct engagements with the community to enhance vaccine confidence and uptake through presentations, block walking, small group conversations, and other methods to connect individuals to vaccine resources. Using the United Way's ConnectATX platform, CHW's will provide screening, referral, and follow-up to address social determinants of health. CHW's will also receive training on resiliency/chronic disease prevention curricula (such as evidence-based programs for

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physical activity promotion, diabetes education and prevention, and tobacco cessation) and provide these curricula throughout the three years of the project to address underlying chronic conditions that have led to disproportionate COVID-19 outcomes. Program evaluation activities will be supported through a contract with the University of Texas School of Public Health-Austin Campus. This action will authorize the creation of eight regular grant-funded positions, which are necessary to complete project deliverables.

This project directly supports the following SD2023 Health and Environment Strategies:

**Strategy #1:** Promote healthy living and well-being with a particular focus on areas and communities with high rates of chronic disease and high-risk behaviors who lack access to services.

**Strategy #2:** Provide and/or support initiatives that can connect those seeking wellness and medical care with the appropriate providers and help them navigate and overcome critical barriers to obtaining health and mental health services (e.g., getting to appointments, cost of care).

This project is also aligned with Austin Public Health Strategic Direction Goal #2 Prevent and control chronic disease and risk factors and Goal #6: Prevent and control the spread of HIV, sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis, and vaccine preventable diseases within the general population.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant or to the funding of this position. When the grant funds expire, the Austin Public Health Department's need for this position will be evaluated and the position may be eliminated.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Health and Environment.